

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EUR-12 EA-12 NEA-11 ISO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00

INRE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE IMMEDIATE 972

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KAUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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TAGS: PORC, PBOR, MILI, UNSC, IS, LE, XF
SUBJ: UNIFIL ASSURANCES TO HADDAD AND APPROACHING FULL
STRENGTH PRESAGE POSSIBLE IDF WITHDRAWAL

SUMMARY: "JERUSALEM POST" MAY 19 CARRIES LONG FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE BY DAVID LANDAU REPORTING PREVIOUS DAY'S DISCUSSION BETWEEN UNIFIL REP AND CHRISTIAN COMMANDER HADDAD ON THE FUTURE OF THE CHRISTIAN ENCLAVES COUPLED WITH DETAILS OF IMMINENT ARRIVAL OF ADDITIONAL 2,000 TROOPS WHICH "WOULD REMOVE THE LAST REMAINING OBSTACLES DELAYING ISRAEL'S COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON." END SUMMARY

1. STORY CITES BOTH SENIOR UN AND ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTRY SOURCES. LATTER QUOTED AS SAYING IDF WILL WITHDRAW ONLY WHEN CONVINCED UNIFIL CAN EFFECTIVELY PREVENT PLO REINFILTRATION AND SAFETY OF CHRISTIANS IS ENSURED. FORMER ARE SAID TO BE EXPECTING WITHDRAWAL TO TAKE PLACE WITHIN A FORTNIGHT OR SO.

2. AFTER WITHDRAWAL, THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE ISRAELI-LEBANESE MIXED ARMITICE COMMISSION (ILMAC) UNDER UN CHAIRMANSHIP WILL BE REVIVED. STORY SAYS THIS WAS PROPOSED BY DAYAN TO WALDHEIM LAST MONTH AND INITIAL GOL REACTION IS UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE BEEN POSITIVE.

3. MAY 18 MEETING BETWEEN AMERICAN UNIFIL OFFICER AND HADDAD HAD TAKEN PLACE AT URGING OF COS EITAN WHO SUGGESTED IT TO UNCLASSIFIED

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GENERAL SIILASVUO DURING THEIR MAY 12 TALK. ISRAEL HAD ALSO ENCOURAGED HADDAD TO MEET WITH UN. IN LINE WITH GOI'S DECLARED DETERMINATION TO VACATE ENTIRE AREA OF SOUTH LEBANON, INCLUDING THE CHRISTIAN ENCLAVES, IDF OFFICERS IN THE NORTH WERE INSTRUCTED TO URGE HADDAD TO OVERCOME HIS EARLIER SUSPICIONS AND ANIMOSITIES TOWARD UNIFIL AND TO SEEK TO COOPERATE WITH THE UN FORCE. ISRAEL ARGUES HADDAD'S FORCES SHOULD BE SEEN AS REPRESENTING THE GOL, THE RESTORATION OF WHOSE SOVEREIGNTY IS PART OF UNIFIL'S MANDATE. THIS ARGUMENT HAS GAINED SOME ACCEPTANCE. SENIOR UN OFFICIALS ARE QUOTED "WE HAVE TO FACE FACTS: HADDAD HAS A FORCE OF SOME 600 ARMED MAN, MEMBERS OF THE LEBANESE ARMY."

4. THE WEAK GOL, UNDER PRESSURE FROM LEFTIST AND PLO FORCES, IS APPARENTLY NOT EXPECTED TO FORMALLY ENDORSE HADDAD'S ROLE. BUT WITH DISCREET DIPLOMACY IN BEIRUT AND THE SOUTH, IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR UNIFIL TO ACHIEVE A TACIT UNDERSTANDING WITH GOL AND HADDAD EFFECTIVELY RECOGNIZING LATTER AS LEBANESE TROOPS. WITHOUT SUCH RECOGNITION, UNIFIL IS TECHNICALLY DUTY BOUND UNDER MANDATE TO DISARM HADDAD'S MEN. PRIMARY PURPOSE OF UN - HADDAD MEETING WAS TO PERSUADE HADDAD UN HARBORS NO SUCH INTENTION.

5. UN SOURCES ALSO REPORTED AS WANTING TO ESTABLISH A RELATIVELY SMALL PRESENCE IN THE CHRISTIAN ENCLAVES AND AS NOT INTENDING MASSIVE INTERFERENCE. UN WOULD ALSO PREFER THAT HADDAD CONFINE HIS TROOPS WITHIN CHRISTIAN ENCLAVES, AT LEAST IN THE INITIAL PERIOD AFTER ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL.

6. SENIOR UN SOURCES FURTHER QUOTED AS DENYING THAT UNIFIL SEEKS TO POLICE "GOOD FENCE" ALONG THE BORDER. UNIFIL IS NOT OBLIGATED NOR DOES IT NEED TO TAKE ON THIS TASK AFTER WITHDRAWAL. THUS DAILY CROSSING OF LEBANESE WORKERS INTO ISRAEL, CROSS-BORDER SUPPLY LINKS AND HUMANITARIAN SERVICE ALONG GOOD FENCE WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE UNINTERRUPTED AFTER IDF WITHDRAWAL. UN AND ISRAELI SOURCES ARE CITED AS SAYING THIS SHOULD RELIEVE UNCLASSIFIED

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ANOTHER OF CHRISTIAN ANXIETIES.

7. AS TO POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF FIGHTING BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND THEIR MOSLEM NEIGHBORS AFTER WITHDRAWAL, SOURCES SAY UNIFIL CAN PROTECT CHRISTIANS SHOULD THE NEED ARISE.

8. THESE SOURCES (PRESUMABLY UN) REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED HOPE THAT IDF WAS HELPING REASSURE HADDAD ABOUT THE FUTURE.

9. IDF OFFICIALS, ON THE WHOLE, WERE REPORTED AS SATISFIED BEYOND THEIR EXPECTATIONS WITH UNIFIL'S PERFORMANCE TO DATE. SEVERAL SHOOTING INCIDENTS WITH PLO UNITS, SOME OF THEM INVOLVING FATALITIES, SHOWED BEYOND A DOUBT THAT UNIFIL'S PURPOSE IS TO PREVENT TERRORIST INCURSIONS.

10. STORY ALSO REPORTS DIFFERENCES IN EFFECTIVENESS OF VARIOUS CONTINGENTS WITH FRENCH AND NEPALESE READIER TO OPEN FIRE THAN SWEDES AND NORWEGIANS.

11. COMMENT: STORY OBVIOUSLY BASED ON EXTENSIVE BACKGROUNDING FROM LOCAL UN AND MINISTRY OF DEFENSE SOURCES AND COULD BE DESIGNED TO PREPARE PUBLIC OPINION FOR STATEMENT ON FINAL WITHDRAWAL DATE. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS SENT SEPTTEL. NEWLIN

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TAGS: PORG, PBOR, MILI, IS, LE, XF, UNSC, UNIFIL, (LANDAU, DAVID), (HADDAD, SAAD)
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